

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1 and 4-7 are now present in the application. The title, specification, abstract, and claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Specification and Abstract Objections

The specification and the abstract have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement and being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections have been addressed. Accordingly, all of the claims comply with the enablement requirement and are definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinogi, U.S. Patent No 6,006,606. Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin, U.S. Patent No 5,591,910. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinogi. Claim 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, independent claim1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, independent claim1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, and to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 3 and. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

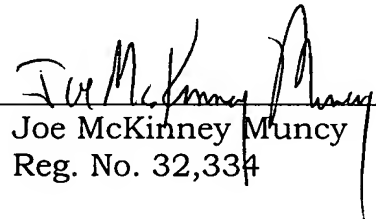
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure